

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 00632 200327Z

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SUBJECT: GOU ACCUSES AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL OF MOUNTING
DEFAMATORY CAMPAIGN

1. THERE FOLLOWS AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF TA REPORT CARRIED
IN ALL MAJOR URUGUAY DAILIES ON FEBRUARY 19. THE REPORT IS BASED ON
STATEMENTS MADE TO THE PRESS BY FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO.
BEGIN QUOTE THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF WHAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER
SAID (AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY): 'THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY WANTS TO ANNOUNCE BEFORE THE NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC THAT TODAY THERE HAS STARTED A NEW STAGE IN
THE CAMPAIGN WHICH SEEKS TO BESMIRCH URUGUAY, PRESENTING A FALSE
IMAGE OF OUR COUNTRY.'

'AS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, THE CAMPAIGN STATES THAT THE ARMED FORCES
AND THE POLICE ARE INCREASING EVERY DAY THEIR AIMING OF SEVERE
BLOWS AT THE ENEMIES OF THE COUNTRY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE
HAS BEEN A CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE (ON THE PART OF THE ORGANIZATION)
WITH THESE SAME ENEMIES--WHEN THERE HAS NOT BEEN PUBLIC APPROVAL
OF THEM--WHILE OUR PEACEFUL COUNTRY HAS HAD TO TAKE UP ARMS TO REPEL
SUBVERSIVE AGGRESSION AND FOREIGN INTERVENTION.'

'ON THIS OCCASION, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS IS ABLE
TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE PRIVATE INSTITUTION CALLED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
WILL START, WITH A PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH IT WILL HOLD TODAY IN
VARIOUS EUROPEAN CAPITALS, A STEPPED-UP OFFENSIVE AGAINST OUR

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PAGE 02 MONTEV 00632 200327Z

COUNTRY BY MEANS OF THE MEDIA, TRYING TO THUS CREATE AN ADVERSE

CLIMATE FOR OUR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS.'

'IN VIEW OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO EMPHASIZE:

- (1) THAT IT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE IN THE CITED ORGANIZATION, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, EITHER THE (LEGAL) RIGHT OR THE MORAL AUTHORITY TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF URUGUAY.
- (2) THAT IT DOES NOT MAINTAIN NOR WILL IT MAINTAIN IN THE FUTURE, RELATIONS OF WHATEVER KIND WITH THE CITED ORGANIZATION.
- (3) THAT IT WILL NOT ENGAGE IN POLEMICS IN WHATEVER FORM OR UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WITH THE REFERRED TO ORGANIZATION, SINCE THIS WOULD INVOLVE A LOSS TO THE NATIONAL DIGNITY.
- (4) THAT THE CRITICISMS AGAINST OUR COUNTRY WHEREVER THEY MAY HAVE COME FROM, WILL NOT DISSUADE IN THE SLIGHTEST THE GOVERNMENT FULFILLING ITS OBLIGATIONS TO PRESERVE THE SPONTANEOUS AND FREE DEVELOPMENT OF THENATIONAL POLITICAL PROCESS AND TO MAINTAIN THE CONDITIONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY REACHED BY THE UNITED EFFORTS OF THE PEOPLE, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMED FORCES."

'TODAY, AS IN ALL OF THE HEROIC PAST OF OUR COUNTRY, NOTHING AND NO ONE WILL DEFLECT THE URUGUAYAN PEOPLE FROM ITS COURSE OF INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERTY, WHICH CAUSES IT TO REFUSE WITH TOTAL INDIGNATION PRETENDED SUPERVISION OR FOREIGN INTERFERENCE (IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF URUGUAY). AS DURING ITS 150 YEARS AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION--AND CONFORMING TO THE TRADITIONS OF THE OLD COUNTRY--WE WILL CONTINUE THE TASK OF BUILDING FOR OURSELVES A PEACEFUL AND CULTURED NATION WHOSE CENTER IS THE HUMAN PERSON WITHOUT EVER ADMITTING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE. END QUOTE.

2. AFTERWARDS, DR. BLANCO SAID THAT HE WANTED, IN ORDER TO ILLUSTRATE THE CHARACTER OF THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST URUGUAY, IN ADDITION TO THE GOVERNMENT DECLARATION, TO READ THE TEXT OF THE CABLE WHICH WITH THE CLASSIFICATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD RECEIVED FROM THE URUGUAYAN EMBASSY IN LONDON. THIS EMBASSY SAID THAT IT HAD RECEIVED--ACCORDING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER--BEGIN QUOTE A MESSAGE FROM CERTAIN PEOPLE IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN WHICH THEY ASKED FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH THIS PARTICULAR DIPLOMATIC MISSION. THE NOTE FINISHED WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 MONTEV 00632 200327Z

CERTAIN WORDS, WHICH CAN DO NO LESS THAN AROUSE BOTH AMAZEMENT AND INDIGNATION, BECAUSE OF THE THREAT WHICH THEY INVOLVE, AND WHICH REVEAL CLEARLY AND BRAZENLY THE OBJECTIVE AND THE PURPOSE OF THIS CAMPAIGN WHICH THEY ARE ABOUT TO ANNOUNCE. END QUOTE. THE MESSAGE CONCLUDES WITH THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE: BEGIN QUOTE YOU KNOW THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS MANY FRIENDS AND CONTACTS AMONG JOURNALISTS, INCLUDING THOSE SPECIALIZING IN FINANCIAL

MATTERS, AND THAT IF YOU WERE TO REFUSE US AN INTERVIEW
THEY WOULD RECEIVE THIS NEWS WITH GREAT INTEREST.
END QUOTE.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDED HIS PRESS CONFERENCE IN
THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE SAYING THAT, BEGIN QUOTE CLEARLY THIS
NOTE IS THREATENING OUR DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN LONDON TO USE
ITS (AI'S) COMMUNICATIONS AND CONNECTIONS WITH FRIENDLY JOURNALISTS
IN FINANCIAL CIRCLES TO BESMIRCH OUR COUNTRY. THIS IS THE
NATURE OF THE CAMPAIGN WHICH HAS BEEN UNLEASHED AGAINST
URUGUAY, TO WHICH WE WILL RESPOND WITH THE DIGNITY, THE
COURAGE, AND THE STOICISM WHICH WE AS URUGUAYANS ALWAYS
HAVE IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. END QUOTE.

4. THE NATION'S LEADING DAILY, EL PAIS, ALSO PUBLISHED IN
ITS FEB 19 EDITION IN ITS ENTIRETY AN ARTICLE ENTITLED,
"IS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IMPARTIAL?" THIS CRITICAL
ARTICLE HAD APPEARED IN THE SEP-OCT 1975 EDITION
OF "EAST AND WEST," A PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
INTERNATIONAL POLICY STUDIES AND REPORTS OF PARIS. ITS
THRUST IS THAT HOWEVER SINCERE ITS ORIGINATORS AND MANY
SUPPORTERS AND PARTICIPANTS, THE RECORD SHOWS THAT AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL LENDS ITSELF TO COMMUNIST MANIPULATION AND
IS IN EFFECT AN INSTRUMENT OF COMMUNIST STRATEGY.
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